B-CPRO-7

BLUE · NETWORK · COMPANY

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS # 526

PROGRAM TITLE

SUSTAINING

ADVERTISER

AGENCY

WRITER

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1943

DAY & DATE

11:30 - 12:00 NOON BLUE

TIME

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

CAST

MARY - LUCILE HUSTING
BESS - KATHERINE CARD
JERRY - JOHN LARKIN
JIM - HARVEY HAYS

SOUND

REMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:
This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

BLUE NETWORK COMPANY

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ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

MUSIC: THEME

ANNOUNCER: So great is the need for wood these days that nearly every nook and cranny of our country's forest lands is being called on to play its share in the drive toward Victory. That's as it should be, of course. It's our hope, however, that good practices will come to dominate every logging operation, so that immature, young, growing timber will not be unnecessarily sacrificed. We should see that waste isout, these war days.

Now to the Pine Cone national Forest. They've just had a heavy windstorm up there, and Ranger Jim Robbins and his assistant Jerry Quick have been out in the forest checking up to see if the storm did any damage. At the Ranger Station we find Jim's wife, Bess, and Jerry's sweetheart Mary Halloway, anxiously awaiting their return. Here they are.

SOUND OF LOG THROWN ON FIRE...

MARY: There! Is that enough wood on the fire now, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: Yes, Mary, that's fine. Jim and Jerry will appreciate a nice warm fire when they get back after working out in that cold wind all afternoon.

MARY: It's a shame they had to go out on a day like this. Couldn't they have waited 'til the storm was over?

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BESS: My goodness, you couldn't keep Jim in, nor Jerry either, for that matter, Mary. These forest rangers always have to be out in the forest whenever there's any danger threatening the trees.

MARY: Yes, I know.

BESS: The two of them were all for going out over the district yesterday, but the wind was blowing so hard they couldn't stand up straight.

MARY: It has been a bad wind storm, hasn't it, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Jim says it's one of the worst we've had on the Pine Cone in years. He's been quite worried about it, too.

MARY: Yes, I suppose a wind like that can do a great deal of damage to the telephone lines and guard cabins and all.

BESS: Yes, it could, Mary. But what Jim is worried about most is the forest itsel.

MARY: I'm not sure I understand, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Well you see, Jim was fearful that the storm may have damaged or blown over a lot of trees. You can repair telephone lines fairly quickly, but it's not so simple to stand trees back up once they're blown down.

MAARY: Of course. I hadn't thought. The damage might be quite serious then?

BESS: Yes, Mary. Especially now, when we're at war and we can't afford to lose a single..(DOOR OPENS) Oh, there they are now, just getting back.

JERRY: (COMING ON) Hello, Mrs. Robbins. Hi there, Mary!

MARY: Hello, Jerry.

BESS: My goodness, you couldn't keep Jim in, nor Jerry either, for that matter, Mary. These forest rangers always have to be out in the forest whenever there's any danger threatening the trees.

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JERRY: (COMING ON) Hello, Mrs. Robbins. Hi there, Mary!

MARY: Hello, Jerry.

DOOR CLOSES

BESS: Jerry, where's Jim?

JERRY: Oh, he'll be along in a minute. He's just putting thepickup away. (CLAPS HANDS TOGETHER) Boy, this fire sure feels good.

BESS: Jerry, what did you find, you and Jim? Was there...is there very much damage out there in the forest?

JERRY: (SERIOUS) Only in one area, Mrs. Robbins. But we sure took a dickens of a beating in that one spot, all right.

BESS: Oh dear!

MARY: What do you mean, Jerry?

JERRY: The worst blowdown is on the north side of Windy Ridge. You see, it musta caught the full force of the storm. A whole lot of young pine timber is lying on the ground up there, twisted and tumbled around, almost as though... as though some giant had mowed it down with scythe.

BESS: Oh dear! Jim must feel terrible.

JERRY: Jim feels rotten about it and that's the truth..oh, oh, here he comes.

DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES

MARY: Mr. Robbins, Jerry was just telling us...

BESS: Here Jim, let me help you with your coat. Why don't you sit down here by the fire and get warm.

JIM: Thanks, Bess...How are you, Mary?

MARY: Fine, thank you. Jerry was just telling us about what happened up at Windy Ridge.

DOOR CLOSES

BESS: Jerry, where's Jim?

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JIM: Thanks, Bess...How are you, Mary?

MARY: Fine, thank you. Jerry was just telling us about what happened up at Windy Ridge.

BESS: Yes, Jim. Is it as bad as Jerry says?

JIM: I don't know what Jerry told you, Bess, but it's doggonned bad all right. When I think of all that fine young stuff knocked down by the wind before it's time, and when I think it's goin' to have to keep layin' there' til it rots..well, it makes me sick. It couldn't have happened at a worse time.

BESS: But, Jim, won't you be able to salvage a good deal of the blowdown timber? You did last time we had a storm like that.

JERRY: It's all pretty young stuff, Mrs. Robbins. Too small to be much good in its present shape for anything except firewood.

MARY: Oh, but Jerry! Firewood's important. You've told me that yourself. Remember? About how important it is all over the country, to get out extra firewood for next winter.

JIM: Yeah, that's right, Mary. Firewood <u>is</u> important, and that small timber that's blown down up there alongside Windy Ridge could be mighty valuable as firewood. But here's the rub. There's no one available to get it out, even for firewood, see?

mARY: Why couldn't one of the timber operators on the forest go up to Windy Ridge and cut those trees, Mr. Robbins? One of the loggin operators working on the Pine Cone.

JIM: It's the usual question of priority, Mary. We can't very well ask a man like Al Perkins for instance, who's working night and day getting out lumber for rush war orders -- we can't ask him to quit that and go to cutting up a lot of small blowdown timber, now can we?

MARY: No, I suppose not.

JERRY: It's plenty tough all right, Mary. Jim and I figured every angle and we always came back to the same place. There just isn't the labor available. All the able bodied men around here are already working on essential war jobs, more essential, that is, than getting out that firewood, ever.

BESS: Then you think it's hopeless, Jim?

JIM: 'Fraid so, Bess. It sure makes a man feel bad, though, knowing he's lost all that fine young timber... all of it, withouta chance to put any of it to good use. And there it lays, several acres of it.

JERRY: Yeah. And not a chance to save a bit of it, like Jim says, unless we can get somebody cutting up there 'fore the bugs and rot start in. I'll say it's hopeless.

BESS: Maybe ...Jim..Maybe <u>some</u> way can be found to convert those trees into firewood.

JIM: It's no use, Bess. We'll just have to figure that timber as a total loss, I guess. If the times were different..but.. well, there's no use talkin' about it. Let's eat supper, huh?

JERRY: Yeah. We ought to get to bed early tonight, Jim. We've got that survey to make up there on Windy Ridge tomorrow, don't forget.

BESS: What survey is that, Jim?

JIM: We got to check up on how much of that timber blew down, Bess. I'll have to reprot it to the Supervisor, see? And I guess that's about all Jerry and I will be able to do up there right now. Next summer we're goin' to have an awful bad fire hazard on our handsup there.

MARY: Heavens, that's right, isn't it? All those trees on the ground..it would be terrible if a fire broke out.

JERRY: And how! We stand to lose in more ways than one from not bein' able to clean up and make use of thatmaterial. Boy, if a fire gets up there next summer. Whew!

BESS: (BRIGHTLY) I'm not at all sure some way won't be found to use those trees, and eliminate the danger of fire, too.

JIM: Huh? What d'ya mean, Bess?

BESS: Oh..nothing special. I was just thinking...

MARY: I bet I know what, Mrs. Robbins.

JERRY: Humpf. These women. C'mon, let's eat, what d'ya say? Jim and I have a hard day ahead of us tomorrow and men what work gotta eat, don't forget.

MARY: Humpf. These men. (FADE) These big, strong, hardworking men..

PAUSE

JERRY: (FADING IN) Golly, this sure is a mess all right, Jim. Just a jungle of uprooted trees.

JIM: Yeah, we lost more than I thought we did when we were up here yesterday , Jerry. It's kinda hard to take, isn't it?

JERRY: Yeah.

JIM: I had some swell plans for this young stand of pines, Jerry. I figured to dosome thinning here some year soon, for pulpwood, see?.. leaving the best trees to grow up for high-grade lumber.

JERRY: I know, Jim. It sure hurts, seeing aoo this waste.

JIM: I never thought I'd have to watch it all rot on the ground - not this timber. I'd feel a million times better if we could even get it salvaged for firewood.

JERRY: Yeah, that's right, Jim. In a way, firewood out of here today would probably almost stack up in value with what you planned in the future, considering it's so badly needed right now..But I guess standing here gabbing ain't gonna help any. What d'ya say we hurry up and finish up here?

JIM: Yeah, sure. We're about through checking the volume loss. And...(FADE IN SOUND OF TRACTOR OFF - BRING ON GRADUALLY) Hey' What's that?

JERRY: Sounds like a tractor coming up the ridge road, Jim. Who'd be workin' a tractor up this way? Huh?

JIM: Blamed if I know. Whoever it is, he'll be comin' around the bend down there in a minute or so.

JERRY: C'mon, let's head down there and see who it is.

JIM: Okay.

TRACTOR SOUND AND TRUCK MOTOR SLIGHTLY

JERRY: I can't figure any reason for a tractor up in this country right now, Jim. I'd as soon expect to see you and me havin' our hair culred in a ladies' beauty parlor.

JIM: There they come now, Jerry. There's a truck comin' along behind, too.

JERRY: You're right! (BRING TRACTOR AND TRUCK ON) Wow! Do you see what I see, Jim?

JIM: Yeah, but I don't believe it! Isn't that al Perkins' wife, Katy, handling that tracotr? And..aw no, that can't be Bess sittin' alongisde Katy!

JERRY: it can't huh! Well it is..And d' ya know who's drivin' that logging truck just behind? It's Mary. See? That's who it is all right, Jim, Mary! Look at all the women packed in the back of the truck too.

JIM: (CHUCKLING) They've sure got a load of 'em aboard, haven't they? Tall ones and short ones, thin ones and fat ones..

JERRY: Yeah, and blondes and brunettes and...doggone, Jim, what does it all mean?

JIM: Well, from the looks of the rolling stock and all the axes and saws and cant hooks and peavies they've got a board, I'd say we've got a brand new kind of woods crew here on The Pine Cone..H-m-m, they're stopping right here (MOTORS OUT) ...Here comes Bess.

JERRY: Yeah, Mary, too. And all the rest of 'em. Reckon we better start running, Jim?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) No. Hold your ground, Son!

BESS: (COMING ON) Jim! We're here. Every single woman around Winding Creek that could come. All ready to go to work!

MARY: Yes, Mr. Robbins. Where do we start?

JIM: Bess, what in the world is all this about anyway?

BESS: Why, you said all this blowdown timber could make good friewood and it mustn't be allowed to stay here and rot. So as soon as Mary and I put it up to some of the other women they agreed this would be a good war job for all of us.

JIM: Yeah, but

BESS: Katy Perkins prevailed on her husband to lend us the equipment and tractor....

JIM: (LAUGHS) So Thats what they call it now, huh? She didn't make hiblend you this stuff, she prevailed on him.

ALL LAUGH

MARY: Mr. Robbins, we all felt that since this was small timber anyway therewas no reasonwhy we couldn't work it up into firewood, we women. It'll help the forest by reducing the fire hazard and it'll help you guarantee a supply of fuelwood for Winding Creek next winter, and....

BESS: Maybe some of us'll be a little more awkward than you men folks with an axe and all, Jim, but I'm sure we can do the job...We're ready to go to work if you and Jerry will show us what to do.

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JERRY: Well...I'll be jiggered!

JIM: (HEARTILY) Bess, I'm proud of you and Mary and every blessed woman here. Yes sir! I wouldn't have believed it possible but I think you gals can do the trick all right.. I know you can.

BESS: I'm glad, Jim. We do want to help. We're family women, most of us and we can't all be WAACS or WAVES or anything like that. We can cut some firewood though, we feel, and....

JIM: By George, you oughta have a fancy name too. Why not call yourselves the...the Frogs..F-R-O-G-S...

JERRY: Frogs? (LAUGHING) I get it! Look at Mary jumping around in those oversized boots and...

MARY: Jerry! Just because I borrowed your old overalls and all... That wasn't what Mr. Robbins had in mind. Was it, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: No indeed, Mary..what I had in mind was that..that all of you women are FORESTRY RESERVES ORGANISED TO GIVE SERVICE

BESS: F-R-O-G-S...Forestry Reserves Organized to give Service..

JIM: And I mean IMPORTANT SERVICE, too....

(CHEERS AND APPLAUSE)

MUSIC FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during the National Farm and Home Hour as a network presentation with the cooperation of theForest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

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